

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. I bought into 2 different flat rate phone services @ \$40 & \$50 monthly but my bill went up EVERY month to over \$83.00 due to state and local fees, gov't add-ons, etc. THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS, especially with so many people looking for work, elderly who cannot afford to call their grandchildren, others on fixed or lower incomes. MANY middle income households have trouble with their phone bills.

Perhaps a new addition to the phone bills, reading:
"How you've been fleeced/pickpocketed this month" followed by the items and charges, which of course no one will understand and must call for further explanation! ABSURD, but this is what our bills are already like.
ALSO isn't
paying to be UN-listed a form of EXTORTION?

Are there
more taxes on phones than cigarettes. Phones are NOT vices but necessities and this nightmare must be turned around, i.e.:

Flat Rate: \$50.00 + Sales Tax (in my area it's 8/25%) = bill total

NO OTHER CHARGES AT ALL. Simple!

Let

the phone companies pay, AS THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS, any other LIMITED federal, state, local charges, NOT US.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.